Illegal quarrying in Kutch

4131. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that illegal quarrying and mining in Kutch's Majestic Black Hill is threatening to destroy a fragile eco-system;

(b) whether it is a fact that civil contractors had been blasting away deep inside the hills for granite and sand over the last two months despite the fact that part of it forms the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop illegal mining in the areas and save the Black Hills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Ministry of Mines is not aware of illegal quarrying and mining in Kutch's majestic black hill threatening to destory a fragile eco-system. However, instances of illegal mining in different States brought to the notice of Central Government from time to time are forwarded to concerned State Government for appropriate action. The States are the owners of minerals and illegal mining has serious revenue implications for the State. To effectively curb illicit mining, State Governments have been empowered to make ruels for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals under the provisions of Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Aluminium Plants

4132. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Aluminium Plants functioning at present both in private and public sector;

(b) the details of target fixed by all the plants with regard to production of aluminium during the last three years; and

(c) the performance and achievement of the above plants during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) As per the information received from primary producers of aluminium, the details of aluminium plants operating in the country, their targets and achievement during the last three years are given below:

(*figures in metric tonnes*)

Company	Location of Plant	2002-03 Production		2003-04 Production		2004-05 Production	
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
National Aluminium Company Limited	Angul, Orissa	230000	244708	290000	298207	348000	338483
Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	Korba, Chhattisgarh	94000	95490	100000	97088	100000	100272
Hindalco Industries Limited	Renukoot, Uttar Pradesh	285000	266837	337250	323184	345000	343448
	Hirakund, Orissa	36915	37102	60029	60877	65867	65620
	Alupuram, Kerala	14273	14131	14198	4528	—	—
Madras Aluminium Company Limited	Mettur Dam, Salem Tamil Nadu	34029	30900	34255	32226	37462	35649

Directorate of Mines Safety

4133. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff strength of Directorate of Mines Safety is not adequate with the size of mining industry;